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### IN VACATION.

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**Not So Thick.**—A Swede was being examined in a case in a Minnesota town where the defendant was accused of breaking a plate-glass window with a large stone. He was pressed to tell how big the stone was, but he could not explain.

"Was it as big as my fist?" asked the nervous judge, who had taken over the examination from the lawyers, in the hope of getting some results.

"It ban bigger," the Swede replied.

"Was it as big as my two fists?"

"It ban bigger."

"Was it as big as my head?"

"It ban about as long, but not so thick," replied the Swede, 'amid the laughter of the court.—Saturday Evening Post.

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**Contempt of Court.**—"Now lemme see," said the rural justice, figuring on the back of an old envelope. "Your bill will come to jest—forty-seven dollars."

"Forty-seven dollars?" echoed Wigglethorpe. "Why, Judge, the fine for overspeeding is only fifteen dollars."

"Ya-as, I know," said the justice. "The thutty-two dollars is fer contempt o' court."

"But I haven't expressed any contempt for this court," protested Wigglethorpe.

"Not yit ye hevn't," grinned the justice, "but ye will, my friend, ye will before ye git a mile out o' town. I've made the fine putty stiff so's t' give ye plenty o' room to move round in."—Harper's Weekly.

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**Fair Notis.**—A ruralist in Missouri posted his lands, the notices reading as follows:

"Notis—Trespasers will be persekuted to the full exten of 2 mean mungrel dogs wich ain't never ben overly soshibil with strangers an' 1 dubble barl shotgun wich ain't loaded with no sofy pillers dam if I ain't tire of this helraisin' on my property."

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### BOOK REVIEWS.

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**The Modern Law of Evidence**, by Chas. F. Chamberlayne, of the Boston & New York Bars, American Editor of Best on Evidence and Taylor on Evidence. 4 Royal Octavo Volumes. Matthew Bender & Co., Publishers, Albany, N. Y. 1913. Price \$28.00.

The completion of Mr. Chamberlayne's splendid work on Evi-

dence is an epoch in law book making. We have waited impatiently for the fourth volume, completing the set, have examined it with unusual pleasure, and rejoice that we are able to have now in its entirety this eminently practical and useful and at the same time scientific work.

It is a strange thing that the law of Evidence should be one in which so much confusion has arisen, so many illogical rules been laid down, and so much been written about it that too often wisdom has been darkened with words. The subject has been found worthy of an encyclopedia; numerous volumes have appeared in the last few years and have always found purchasers. One reason for all this work is that the courts are trying to get away from the old fast bound rules, the legislators are tinkering at many of the injustices—ofttimes making them worse—and the whole subject has needed a revision founded upon some system which would blend as far as possible new decisions and rules with the old law, so as to bring it up to date, without adding to its many incongruities. Mr. Chamberlayne's work is **modern** in every sense of the word—modern in bringing the law up to date—modern in method and in treatment. He has laid down the great fundamental rules and upon their foundation has erected a structure which is simple, harmonious, easy to get into and easy to get out. He opens every door so that the light falls plainly before the searcher after truth. Out of a mass of incongruous, ill digested and seemingly contradictory decisions he has found the basic principle underlying them all, and while never attempting to entirely reconcile them has plainly indicated the way to separate the true from the false, and has formulated principles which aid in so doing. We do not know which most to admire—the industry and patience of the writer or the excellent result which his able mind has produced, not only in the division of his subject but in the happy blending of the practical and scientific. We expect to find it the first work to examine upon the questions of which it treats and to feel that we have the last word upon the subject when we put it down.

The index is of unusual excellence and in turning over its pages we feel a sense of satisfaction that we expect to grow each time we use the work.

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**Flotsam and Jetsam**, by Albert W. Gaines, B. A., LL. B. of the Chattanooga (Tenn.) Bar. Brookline, Boston. The Riverdale Press, Publishers. 1913. Price, post-paid, \$1.26.

"Oh, what an Ovid was in Murray lost!" Pope said of the great Lord Mansfield and though from that time on no lawyer has ever deserved a similar line, yet the excursions of the Bar into verse have not been infrequent. Mr. Gaines' verse, however, does not resemble Ovid, Horace or any of the greater poets, but is a delightful collection of comic verses, some, if not most, of which have appeared in legal periodicals. We can frankly say that the verses are simply delightful—not at all pretentious, but meant to create a kindly smile. He must be a cynic who will not enjoy reading them and we heartily commend them to our brethren of the Bar for a few moments enjoyment.